

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02  
/064 W

-----211739Z 124770 /50

R 192211Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7717  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5044

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, VE  
SUBJECT: 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC):  
VENEZUELAN REACTION TO DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 102699, CARACAS 4706, CARACAS 4949

1. LABOR MINISTER JOSE MANZO GONZALEZ, WHO WILL LEAD THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO ILC, RECEIVED EMBASSY OFFICERS MAY 19 IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS FINAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA. IN RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE (SEE STATE REF) MANZO STRESSED THAT HE WAS PRESENTING HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AND STATED THAT VENEZUELA WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE U.S. IN THE ILO. HE DESCRIBED VENEZUELA AS A "CONCILIATORY FORCE WHICH COULD HELP SMOOTH SOME OF THE ASPERITIES" AND CREATE AN ILO RE-DEDICATED TO ITS TECHNICAL MANDATE. MANZO DID WARN THAT OCCASIONALLY POLITICAL ISSUES WOULD INTERJECT THEMSELVES INTO THE ILO NO MATTER HOW HARD VENEZUELA OR THE U.S. TRIED TO AVOID IT BUT THOUGHT THAT THESE INTERJECTIONS COULD BE KEPT TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE THE ORGANIZATION. MANZO CITED "HUMAN RIGHTS" AS AN ISSUE WITH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. MANZO EXPRESSED STRONG VENEZUELAN SUPPORT FOR  
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PROCEDURES TO PREVENT CONDEMNATION WITHOUT INVESTIGATION. MANZO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE IMPORTANT TECHNICAL WORK PERFORMED BY THE ILO AND CITED THE HIGH LEVEL GOV INTEREST IN THE RECENT VISIT OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AS INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE VENEZUELA ATTACHES TO THE ORGANIZATION. MANZO EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT THE ILO COULD SURVIVE WITHOUT THE U.S. AND THUS VENEZUELA'S FIRST PRIORITY

MANZO SAID VENEZUELA DOES NOT WANT THE U.S. TO LEAVE THE ILO FOR THE ILC IS KEEPING THE U.S. IN THE ILO. BOTH BECAUSE IT IS A FELLOW DEMOCRACY AND BECAUSE VENEZUELA BASICALLY AGREES WITH THE US POSITION.

2. THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING ILC WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM ON MAY 18 REMINDING HIM OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ON THE SAME SUBJECT (CARACAS 4706) AND REITERATING THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE U.S. VIEWS THIS MATTER. ESCOVAR STATED THAT VENEZUELA FEELS THAT U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO WOULD BE VERY UN-DESIRABLE. THE AMBASSADOR UNDERLINED THAT WHAT HAPPENS AT THE ILC WILL BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE U.S. DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL AND URGED ESCOVAR TO DISCUSS THE ILO QUESTION WITH MANZO PRIOR TO THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE. ESCOVAR PROMISED TO STUDY THE MATTER WITH THE GREATEST CARE.

3. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED JOSEPH MORRIS' CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ILC WITH MANZO. MANZO APPEARED NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF THE CANDIDACY PREVIOUSLY AND MADE NO COMMITMENT.

4. COMMENT: MANZO WAS CAREFUL NOT TO PROMISE 100 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR ALL U.S. POSITIONS AT THE ILC, RATHER STRESSING VENEZUELA'S ROLE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE THIRD WORLD AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES. HE DID APPEAR FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. POSITION AND WAS CATEGORICAL IN INSISTING THAT VENEZUELA WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE U.S. IN THE ILO. MANZO APPARENTLY WILL BE IN EUROPE THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JUNE BUT PLANS TO VISIT SEVERAL OTHER CITIES ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CONTINENT DURING THE PERIOD THE ILC IS IN SESSION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS U.S. DELEGATION TO ILC KEEP IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR CASTELLANOS OF THE VENEZUELAN MISSION IN GENEVA WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE GOV DELEGATION WHILE MANZO IS AWAY. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ELAB, PORG, VE, US, ILO, (MANZO GONZALEZ, JOSE)  
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